

STORY 35.

A MUSLIM'S WORD.

HURMOZAN a Persian Prince fought long with the Muslim armies and suffered several defeats. At last he was tired of war and surrendering to the Muslims the fort he was holding against them requested them to send him to the Caliph at Medina.

The Muslim general complied with his request and accompanied by a good many of his own soldiers Hurmozan set out for Medina. When he reached there they led him to the Mosque, where he found the Caliph sitting on a bare mat.

On seeing him (Hazrat) Omar said "who is this man and why have you brought him here"?

They said "He is Hurmozan the Persian Prince. He has thrown himself on your mercy. We have brought him here because this was the condition on which he surrendered the fort which he was holding against us".

Now (Hazrat) Omar recalled this Persian's repeated treachery, how he had made peace when defeated and how when he could get a fresh army ready he had broken the peace and attacked the Muslim armies causing a great loss of life. At last he decided that he must die. When the Prince heard his fate he said "I want a glass of water before I die". The water was brought,

but he did not drink it and said "I am afraid that I may be killed while I am drinking. Promise that you will not kill me before I have drunk this water".

The promise was given upon which Hurmozan poured the water upon the ground, and to the surprise of every body said "Now you cannot kill me".

There was an outcry that he had played a dirty trick, and should not be allowed to escape punishment, so cheaply. But (Hazrat) Omar said "No. The word of a Muslim must be kept. No one can touch him now".

Hurmuzan was allowed to live thanks to his cleverness. But he was so touched by this magnanimous treatment, that he embraced Islam without further hesitation.